

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 USIA-06 INR-07 EB-07 /032 W

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R 191220Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5579

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUJUMBURA 0712

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, ECON, IV, BY, PINR (DONATIEN BIHUTE)

SUBJECT: MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT ON AMERICAN ECONOMY/FY-77 IV
PROGRAM NOMINATION

REF: STATE 165050

1. POST WOULD LIKE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE ON WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO NOMINATE DONATIEN BIHUTE, SECRETARY GENERAL IN CHARGE OF THE BURUNDI'S TECHNICAL STUDIES (PLANNING) BUREAU IN THE PRESIDENCY, FOR THE MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT ON THE AMERICAN ECONOMY (OCTOBER 11 TO NOVEMBER 9) FOLLOWED BY 10-14 DAYS OF INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL ON AN IV LEADER GRANT. BIHUTE IS INTERESTED IN THE GROUP EXPERIENCE AND PROGRAM OFFERED BY THIS MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT, BUT HE COULD NOT ARRIVE TO BEGIN PARTICIPATION IN IT UNTIL AROUND OCTOBER 20 BECAUSE OF A UN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING HE MUST ATTEND IN ALGIERS. HE ALSO WANTS TO SEE CERTAIN ECONOMIC ASPECTS RELEVANT TO BURUNDI'S DEVELOPMENT WHICH HE PROBABLY COULD ONLY SEE THROUGH INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL (SEE PARA 4 BELOW). HE IS EMINENTLY QUALIFIED IN TERMS OF EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE, AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE FLUENCY TO CONTRIBUTE TO GROUP DISCUSSIONS AS WELL AS TO LEARN FROM THEM. THUS WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COOPERATION, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, IN INCLUDING HIM IN THE GROUP PROJECT WITH A SUBSEQUENT INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL PERIOD.

2. IF HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE AMERICAN ECONOMY PROJECT IS NOT FEASIBLE, THEN POST WOULD WISH TO NOMINATE BIHUTE FOR A FULL ONE MONTH'S LEADER GRANT BEGINNING O/A ACOTOBER 20.

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3. BIOGRAPHIC DATA IS AS FOLLOWS:

A) NAME: DONATIEN BIHUTE (PRONOUNCED BEE-HU-TAY)

B) BORN: OCTOBER 22, QORP IN RUGOMBO, PROVINCE OF BUBANZA, BURUNDI

C) ADDRESS: B.P. 251, BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI

D) ACADEMIC TRAINING: SECONDARY EDUCATION AT THE COLLEGE DE ST. ESPRIT IN BUJUMBURA, 1953-60; "LICENCE" IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SCIENCES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF FRIBOURG IN SWITZERLAND, 1960-64

E) PRESENT POSITION: SINCE 1974, SECRETARY GENERAL IN CHARGE OF THE TECHNICAL STUDIES (PLANNING) BUREAU AT THE PRESIDENCY. HE HOLDS THE RANK OF MINISTER.

F) SIGNIFICANT PAST POSITIONS: DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING IN THE BURUNDI MINISTRY OF FINANCE, 1964-66; MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND GOVERNOR OF THE IMF FOR BURUNDI, 1966-67; MANAGEMENT ADVISER, BANQUE DE CREDIT DE BUJUMBURA, 1968; ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND LATER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORK BANK FOR 19 COUNTRIES, 1968-72; BURUNDI'S AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE, 1972-74.

G) PUBLICATIONS INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES: "LA MOBILITE DE LA MAIN D'OEUVRE AU RWANDA BURUNDI," FRIBOURG, 1963; "LA STRUCTURE DES TAUX D'INTERETS," FRIBOURG, 1964; "REPARTITION INEGALE DE L'AIDE AU DEVELOPPEMENT," JEUNE AFRIQUE, 1970; "SOME CHALLENGES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA," UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ORANGE, N.J., 1971; "THE ROLE OF THE WORLD BANK GROUP IN AFRICA," UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ORANGE, 1971.

H) TRAVEL ABROAD: EXTENSIVELY IN EUROPE, AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA, EAST COAST OF THE U.S.

I) KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH: EXCELLENT

J) OTHER LANGUAGES SPOKEN: FRENCH, KIRUNDI, SWAHILI

K) MARITAL STATUS AND CHILDREN: BIHUTE'S WIFE, COLETTE, IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE EX-MWAMI'S FIRST WIFE (FROM HER SECOND MARRIAGE). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY HAVE A SON, 13; A DAUGHTER, 9; AND A SON, 7.

L) SPECIAL INTERESTS: SOCCER, AMERICAN FOOTBALL, MUSIC. THERE ARE NO PERSONAL OR CULTURAL CAVEATS. BIHUTE IS PLEASANT MANNERED, SERIOUS-MINDED, LEVEL-HEADED, ARTICULATE, COMPETENT, WELL-READ, HARD WORKING, SOPHISTICATED, BUT RELATIVELY UNPRETENTIOUS FOR SOMEONE WHO BECAME A MINISTER AT AGE 26. HE IMPRESSES ALL VISITORS IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FIELD WITH HIS PROFESSIONALISM AND THE

PROGRESS HE HAD MADE SINCE 1974 WHEN PRESIDENT MICOMBERO PUT HIM IN CHARGE OF A MUCH NEEDED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND COORDINATING OFFICE.

M) EMERGENCY ADDRESS: C/O COLETTE BIHUTE, TEL. 33-97 OR 20-62, BUJUMBURA.

4. BIHUTE WOULD LIKE TO SEE CERTAIN SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE U.S. ECONOMY RELEVANT TO BURUNDI'S DEVELOPMENT PLAN. IN AGRICULTURE, THIS INCLUDES CROPS LIKE RICE, SOYA, SUGAR, COTTON, SMALL SCALE WHEAT GROWING, VEGETABLES (ESPECIALLY POTATOES), SMALL IRRIGATION SCHEMES, CATTLE RAISING, AND BEEF MARKETING. IN MINERALS, HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN OPEN PIT MINE (BURUNDI WILL BE USING OPEN PIT MINES FOR THE FUTURE EXPLOITATION OF ITS NICKEL DEPOSITS). IN INDUSTRY, HE IS INTERESTED IN SEEING SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES INCLUDING TEXTILE AND FLOUR MILLS (OTHER FACTORIES PLANNED HERE ARE FOR SMALL FARM TOOLS, SUGAR PROCESSING, BRICK MAKING, PLASTIC SACKS, MATCHES, CERAMICS, AND TANNING). HE WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO SMALL SCALE BUSINESSMEN (THIS MIGHT ALSO INCLUDE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN TOWNS THE EQUIVALENT SIZE OF BUJUMBURA'S 160,000 POPULATION). IF A TOURIST SITE VISIT WERE INCLUDED IN HIS TRIP, IT SHOULD BE IN A MOUNTAIN OR LAKE AREA SINCE THIS IS SIMILAR TO BURUNDI'S OWN TERRAIN FOR WHICH IT HOPES TO ATTRACT TOURISTS.

5. SINCE BIHUTE HAS THE RANK OF MINISTER, POST RECOMMENDS A FIRST CLASS TRAVEL TICKET. BIHUTE HAS ALREADY LIVED IN THE U.S. AND IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH, HENCE AN ESCORT OFFICER IS NOT NECESSARY FOR HIS INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, STUDIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUJUMB00712
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760318-0614
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760840/aaaabhxr.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 165050
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT ON AMERICAN ECONOMY/FY-77 IV PROGRAM NOMINATION
TAGS: OEXC, ECON, PINR, IV, BY, (DONATIEN BIHUTE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006